Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

- 1-7. (Cancelled)
- 8. (Original) A near infrared absorbing compound represented by formula (6) below:

$$R_{15}$$
 $N-R_{16}$
 $N-R_{20}$
 R_{19}
 $N-R_{20}$
 R_{19}
 $N-R_{20}$
 R_{18}
 R_{19}
 $N-R_{20}$
 R_{19}
 R_{20}

wherein R_{15} to R_{22} independently represent a straight-chain or branched butyl or pentyl group.